

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT TITLE : PICASSO

PERIOD COVERED : JULY - SEPTEMBER 1988

WRITTEN BY : Lüthi-N. (NIL)

KEYWORDS : picasso, tmci, recon, tobacco, sheet, rcb,
monique, es, ch, trial, tarragona, asta,
hosokawa, micropul, db, grinding

OBJECTIVES

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The aim of this project is to create an in-house capability for TMCI, a reconstituted tobacco process using a different slurry system to that of RCB, as requested by TTG Richmond. The RCB/Monique sheet line in Onnens appeared suitable for attaining this objective. The project was implemented and now allows for process and product development trials and production of sheet materials using TMCI technology with various binder systems for limited periods of time.

It also involves our assistance, together with PM Richmond, to Tabacalera SA in Spain for sheet development and the start-up of TMCI installations in Tarragona and Cadiz using the PM binder system.

STATUS

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Based on the results from the three week trial program in Tarragona, Spain, it was finally agreed between PM, TMCI and Tabacalera to prepare additional finely ground Spanish tobacco for further development work in Tarragona on ASTA sheet (1, 2). As the WILLIAMS roller mill in Cadiz is not yet operational, the tobacco will be ground at NU WAY Tobacco Company in South Windsor, Connecticut, USA. Due to some delay in the shipment, the grinding will be done only at the beginning of October 1988. The trials in Tarragona are planned for November 1988.

As reported earlier, about 350 kg of the feedstock currently used on RCB/Monique in Onnens was sent to HOSOKAWA MICROPUL in Germany for some pre-trials in producing a finely ground product in their pilot plant using one of their impact mills.

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Based on these pre-trials, carried out in July 1988, we decided to ship about 5'000 kg of feedstock to HOSOKAWA in Germany. After contact with R&D Richmond, it was decided to grind the tobacco to two different sizes. This was discussed with HOSOKAWA and accepted by them as being feasible (3).

The tobacco was shipped on August 24, 1988, and will be back in Onnens at the beginning of October (3). The trials in Onnens using this finely ground tobacco on the RCB/Monique-TMCI installation are planned for November.

REFERENCES

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- (2) Gellatly-G. Note to Alonso-H., "Process evaluation weekly summary on ASTA reconstituted tobacco", August 2, 1988
- (3) Lüthi-N. Fax to Simons-O., HOSOKAWA, "Mahlen von verschiedenen Tabakmaterialien", August 25, 1988

A. Lüthi

NIL/cav/October 20, 1988
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